

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING THE CORAM FIRE DEPARTMENT ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Coram Fire Department on the 80th anniversary of its founding. Like all of Long Island's volunteer fire services, the Coram firefighters reflect the best of the American spirit: bravery, loyalty, and commitment to public service.

As Coram has grown over the past 80 years, its fire department has expanded and enhanced its services to meet the needs of the community. Operating from three firehouses, the department offers firefighting, EMS and rescue services to nearly 55,000 area residents.

Mr. Speaker, as my primary district office is located in Coram, I deeply appreciate the firefighters' commitment to protecting my second home. On behalf of my staff and the residents of Coram, I offer my thanks and best wishes as the department continues its tradition of service for many years to come.

## SUPPORTING NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 367. This resolution marks the 140th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad and the beginning of America's strong dependence on rail transportation.

Since the golden spike was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit in 1869, our nation has relied on passenger and freight rail to build our communities and enhance our way of life.

And like then, our economic growth depends on the ability to move goods and people quickly and reliably.

For anyone who has driven on the I-95 corridor recently, it is strikingly clear that highway congestion has become a critical problem—threatening business productivity, increasing safety risks, and hindering efforts to improve air quality. In fact, studies have shown that travelers in the Northeast waste approximately 700,000 hours and 500,000 gallons of fuel sitting in traffic delays every year.

Fixing our transportation system will take a sustained, long-term investment. Last month, President Obama announced a new Strategic Plan to build a national high-speed rail network. Now, it is incumbent upon us to ensure this plan is effective in addressing the critical

mobility challenges in heavily congested areas of the country, like the Northeast Corridor between Boston and Washington, DC.

In 2008, Amtrak set a new record with 28.7 million passengers—including millions of travelers and commuters in the Northeast. I commend Amtrak for its efforts to increase ridership and improve its on-time performance over the last several years.

As cochair of the House Passenger Rail Caucus, and more importantly one of the thousands of commuters who rely on Amtrak almost daily, I can attest to the accomplishments of our nation's railroads and I look forward to joining my colleagues in exploring their untapped potential.

I thank Chairwoman BROWN for her strong leadership on this important issue and I congratulate America's railroads in celebrating National Train Day.

## HONORING JOHN BUCK OF NEW BLOOMINGTON, OHIO, 2009 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House John Buck of New Bloomington, Ohio. John is among this year's recipients of the Environmental Stewardship Award, given by the Ohio Livestock Coalition in partnership with the Ohio Pork Producers Council.

The Environmental Stewardship Award program acknowledges superior conservation techniques among our Nation's livestock producers, who already take the lead in responsible land use practices. For nearly twenty years, winners have been recognized for their dedication to promoting air and water quality and protecting fish and wildlife habitats while operating successful and profitable livestock businesses. This commitment is especially important in Ohio, where one in every seven jobs is directly linked to our state's \$100 billion agriculture industry.

John was recognized for his achievement at the 2009 Ohio Livestock Coalition's annual meeting on April 6. I am honored to add my congratulations to those of producers from throughout Ohio on this achievement. John's commitment to responsible stewardship is a fine example to landowners across the State and Nation.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on May 4, 2009, I was unable to cast my

votes on H. Res. 230 and H. Con. Res. 111 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 229, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 230, Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 230, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Con. Res. 111, Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel, I would have voted "yea."

## STATEMENT ON THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARIE WILKINSON

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to acknowledge the 100th birthday of Mrs. Marie Wilkinson.

A true living legend, Marie Wilkinson has spent a lifetime giving to others and her community.

Today I thank Marie Wilkinson for all her service to the city of Aurora and wish her a very happy birthday. It is an honor to celebrate such a momentous day and a remarkable life.

For more than six decades Marie Wilkinson has fought injustice and given voice to those most in need. Her activism has reached well beyond the local level to benefit countless across the state. In the late 1940s Mrs. Wilkinson won a case before the Illinois State Appellate Court that resulted in the integration of area restaurants. Through the Human Relations Commission she founded in 1964, Mrs. Wilkinson is credited with enacting the first Fair Housing Ordinance in Illinois.

Unyielding determination and a deep love of people have kept Marie Wilkinson going. Her work has led to the founding of more than 60 charitable organizations including Hesus House Homeless Shelter, Feed the Hungry Program, Breaking Free Drug Program, Catholic Social Action Conference, Sci-Tech Youth Science Museum, and the Quad County Urban League.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Marie Wilkinson's 100th birthday, and celebrating her commitment to the betterment of community and humanity.

## RECOGNIZING NURSING STAFF AT EL RIO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madame Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nursing staff at El Rio Community Health Center in Tucson, AZ.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.